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he uttered a loud and doleful groan, which caused all that heard it to shudder and quake. At the same moment, as the Indians firmly believed, a tremor ran through the earth itself.¹ Again, at the annual festival of the god Totec, a number of captives having been killed and skinned, a priest clothed himself in one of their skins, and thus became the image of the god Totec. Then wearing the ornaments of the god—a crown of feathers, golden necklaces and ear-rings, scarlet shoes, and so forth—he was enthroned, and received offerings of the first-fruits and first flowers of the season, together with bunches of the maize which had been kept for seed.² Every fourth year the Quauhuitlans offered sacrifices in honor of the god of fire. On the eve of the festival they sacrificed two slaves, skinned them, and took out their thigh bones. Next day two priests clothed themselves in the skins, took the bones in their hands, and with solemn steps and dismal howlings descended the stairs of the temple. The people, who were assembled in crowds below, called out, 'Behold, there come our gods.'"³

We repeat, Professor Frazer's book is of great interest and the general drift of his investigations tends in the right direction. The subject is of intense importance because it stands in close connexion with one of the central dogmas of Christianity and indicates a connexion of the Pauline conception of the Lord's Supper with the ancient cannibalism of prehistoric and savage institutions.

P. C.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT PARIS.

The international point of view, which has yielded such beneficent results in so many scientific undertakings, has not been applied as yet to the new science of psychology, which, from the practical and moral advantages now being derived from it, is more and more acquiring a unique position in the economy of human effort.

During the International Psychological Congress held at Paris in August of last year, the presidents of the Congress, MM. Th. Ribot and Charles Richet, MM. Tarde, Flournoy, Myers, and other members of the committee, presented to the psychologists assembled from all civilised countries the project of a new scientific organisation to be called the International Psychical Institute,—a name which since the actual organisation of the institute has, for good and sufficient reasons, been changed to that of the International Psychological Institute.

The object of this Institute will be the introduction of the international principle into psychology, a science which is now unquestionably more in need of it

¹ E. J. Payne, *op. cit.*, I., 470.

² Sahagun, p. 584 et seq. For this festival see also *id.*, pp. 37 et seq., 58 et seq., 60, 87 et seq., 93; Clavigero, I., 297; Bancroft, II., 306 et seq.

³ Clavigero, I., 283.

than any other. The work in psychology is at present being carried on in the different countries according to special and peculiar methods, which are mostly quite foreign to one another; and the important questions which have presented themselves in this science are consequently but rarely studied in a harmonious and many-sided manner. To remedy this manifest deficiency an international center is required, which will be at once a center of information, of instruction, and experiment.

On the side of instruction, the Institute would enjoy the great advantage of being able to offer a comprehensive survey of mental and psychological science from the point of view of its various component branches and sections, such as physiology, anatomy, pathology, experimental psychology, hypnotism, criminology, and sociology. This view of the entire province is exceedingly important. The scientists of the different countries will find all the various experimental methods united here, and this fact will certainly have influence on their subsequent researches. The organization of the Institute will involve the establishment of a psychological museum, a library, a working bibliographic department, courses of lectures by the psychologists of the different countries, special as well as popular in nature, and finally the maintenance of a bureau of information for the convenience of members. The Institute will form a common meeting-ground for laborers in the field of psychology, and will permanently fulfil one of the most important objects of the Congress itself,—that of establishing personal relations between the representatives of the different fields and methods of work.

But altogether apart from this aspect of the question, the Psychological Institute will offer many advantages from the more special point of view of psychological study and experiment, on the principle that it is by the efforts of individual investigators alone that the science has advanced. The Institute had decided to make a point of fostering individual researches, either by procuring for scientists special laboratories hitherto not existing, or by furnishing them with subsidies for concluding work which has been adjudged valuable. The present difficulty in procuring anatomical materials is sufficient proof of the advantages which the Institute would offer in this regard.

In social and criminal psychology the utility of an institute of this kind is no less evident. Questions such as the confinement of prisoners in individual cells, now exclusively studied from the point of view of criminology, would gain much by being studied from the psychological point of view. The necessary data to this end will of course be furnished by the government. The psychology of the child, so important from the point of view of education, would also be studied internationally. Practical methods would be elaborated, according to which the studies should be pursued in the different countries.

Finally, the institution would subserve an important function in the study of hypnotic, somnambulistic, and mediumistic phenomena. In all countries, the investigation and exploitation of these phenomena, be they real or imaginary, has

been almost exclusively confided to incompetent hands, if not to charlatans. In not concerning itself with these phenomena, science would simply render the present situation worse. It is only by studying them thoroughly that science can fulfil its office as the educator of society. All who love the truth will certainly rally about an enterprise of so liberal a character and at the head of which so many distinguished scientific authorities are found. In this way, this enormous mass of facts which as yet has been so imperfectly investigated will be reduced to their scientific substratum, greatly to the discomfiture of dupes and mountebanks. Having correspondents in all countries, collecting materials in great quantities, experimenting with numerous subjects, verifying experiments made elsewhere, the Institute will certainly make great advances, achieving unexpected results in the domain of hypnotism, human electricity, and radiant nervous energy, in forming character by suggestion, etc.

The international scientific council at the head of the Institute is to supply the general outlines for the labors to be undertaken, directing the same toward questions of immediate and practical utility. In this manner, a division of labor will be established between the investigators in the different countries.

Such, broadly, is the design of the International Psychological Institute. Paris has been selected as the site of the Institute, first because of its geographical position, and secondly because there are a larger number of specialists there interested in psychology than in any other single city.

The officers of the Institute, nominated at a general meeting of the members of the society held on June the thirtieth, 1900, are divided into two groups: (1) The International Council of Organisation, (2) The Executive Committee.

The International Council of Organisation consists of the following officials: For America, Mr. William James, Professor of Psychology in Harvard University, U. S. A.; for England, Mr. F. W. H. Myers, President of Society for Psychical Research, London; for France, M. D'Arsonval, Paris, M. Duclaux, Paris, M. Marey, Paris, M. Sully Prudhomme, Paris, M. Ribot, Paris; for Germany, M. von Schrenck-Nötzing, Munich; for Italy, M. Lombroso, Turin; for Russia, M. Mendéléieff, St. Petersburg, M. J. Ochorowicz, Lemberg; for Switzerland, M. Flournoy, Geneva.

The Executive Committee consists of the following officials: M. Bergson, Paris; Dr. Pierre Janet, Paris; Dr. Charles Richet, Paris; Mr. Oswald Murray, London; General Secretary, M. S. Youriévitich, Paris; Treasurer, M. Félix Alcan, Paris.

The first number of the journal of the Psychological Institute appeared both in English and French in November of last year, and copies of it may be obtained at the office of the Institute, Hotel des Sociétés Savants, 28 rue Serpente, Paris, where the secretary is in attendance daily. The Institute will consist of three classes of members: Founders, donors, and ordinary members; the founders consisting of members who subscribe 10,000 francs or more, the donors of members

subscribing 1,000 francs or more, or who pay an annual subscription of 100 francs or more, and ordinary members, who pay an annual subscription of 20 francs. Applications for membership in any one of these classes the society will be glad to receive. The enterprise will require a large capital. Some considerable sums have already been subscribed, and further donations are to be paid soon. Until the amount necessary for the founding of the Institute is collected, a certain proportion only will be devoted to the assistance of individual researches.

The work may be said to have already had a satisfactory beginning. In December the following courses were announced: Ch. Richet: History of the Science of Psychology; Tarde: The Relations Between Individual and Social psychology; Séailles: Relations Between Experimental and Introspective Psychology; Bergson: Dreams; Ochorovicz: Applications of Psychology to Medicine.

Prospects are also good for courses of lectures by Flournoy, Arsonval, Lombroso, and others. Psychologists travelling through Paris are invited to visit the Institute with a view to assisting in its regular work. The society will also be glad to receive gifts of books dealing with psychology, psychical research, psychophysiology, histology, pathology, etc., for its library.

I have but indicated in the present letter the possibilities of the practical working of the Institute. The details of the organisation will still require much study, and should be the consensus of opinion of the principal scientific authorities of the different countries. It is only in this way that the Institute can best respond to the needs which it has been established to fulfil. The officers of the Institute will be glad to receive on these points the advice of all persons interested, and will publish the expressions of opinion in their journal in order that this exchange of views may redound to the profit of all.

It is expected that the scientific circles in the universities of all countries, and particularly of the United States, where psychological researches are now being prosecuted with such vigor, will actively co-operate in this new international scientific enterprise.

PARIS.

S. YOURIÉVITCH, General Secretary.